

# THE STROBE

## FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 7

November 1, 1995

# Crime rate continues to change

by Delilah Larimore  
Associate Editor

With alcohol abuse, drug offenses, assault, domestic disputes, and rape on the decrease, and larceny and personal property crimes steadily on the rise, Fitchburg State College's crime rate continues to fluctuate. However, these figures only reflect incidents that have been reported to the campus safety office.

Since 1992, FSC's related alcohol and drug offenses have dropped from 100 to 60 reported offenses. This information is pertinent considering that according to a study by the Commission of the Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 95 percent of violent crimes on campuses are alcohol related.

Last year, only two forcible sexual offenses were reported to campus police here at FSC, yet 17 percent of respondents to last year's CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey report having been taken advantage of sexually while under the influence of alcohol.

Larceny and personal property crimes are steadily increasing.

"Students put their bags down and go off to talk to their friends and when they come

back their stuff is gone," said Chief Ted Cunningham of Public Safety. He said students tend to be too trustworthy. They leave their residence hall bedroom doors unlocked and unattended. A common situation that often results in these crimes is unattended laundry. Cunningham said that "students leave their laundry in the dryer too long and another student comes along and throws the other students laundry in with theirs."

College campuses all over Massachusetts have developed ways to fight crime. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) officials announced that metal detectors will be used at on campus parties where more than 250 people are expected to attend. These precautions are a result of the five shootings and stabbings that occurred over the past eight years.

In New York, two more of the 28 State Universities are arming their security guards. In Buffalo and Rome, campuses have begun to implement policies that will permit public safety officers to carry weapons on campus. FSC campus safety officers are not allowed to carry firearms.

However, that doesn't stop campus police from working to ensure the safety of students. In a collaboration with the Fitch-



Campus police beef up security at FSC

photo by Heather Workman

burg Police Department, a new policing program has been put into effect. This special program is integrating Fitchburg police into the campus community and making them a more visible force. This program, according to Chief Cunningham, has the college's full support.

Over the past four years there have been several newsmaking crimes on campus, however, two major incidents

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## Police tackle VCR theft

by Derek Valcourt  
Editor-in-Chief

Keep your eyes on the VCR's in your classrooms. Campus police say that three VCR's were reported missing from Edgerly, Percival, and the Hammond buildings this week. One of the VCR's has been recovered while two are still considered stolen.

Police don't know what time the VCR's were taken from the classrooms which are open all day long but say that each department has a different system for checking a VCR out.

"We are a public institution, and we often have those kinds of problems," said Chief Cunningham, adding that an investigation is on-going.

## AIDS Awareness focuses on youth

by Ron Taupier  
Opinion Editor

Fitchburg State College held a seminar on Thursday, October 26 to discuss the impact that HIV and AIDS has on our society, specifically on younger generations.

President Riccard's opening remarks and a community caregiver panel, featuring Dr. Dolores Barbeau (Fitchburg Project Coordinator), Sharon O'Neill (AIDS project, Worcester), Andy Weissman (Pro Health), and Gail Dorville (Gardner Visiting Nurse Association), set the day into motion.

At Ellis White Lecture Hall, Dr. John L. Sullivan, the Director of Pediatric Immunology at UMass Medical Center, spoke about the transmission of HIV to infants. Sullivan emphasized that within the next decade it is estimated that approximately 10 million children will be infected with the AIDS virus.

Sullivan focused on the global impact of the AIDS epidemic and concluded his remarks by stating that there exists sound, quantitative methods for detect-



Student poses with condoms given at AIDS

photo by Heather Workman

Awareness day, ing the amount of the virus in the blood. He also touched upon ways of preventing the transmission of AIDS from mother to child. Such ideas consist of improvements in the cesarean section method, and anatomical cleansing, as means of deterring the transmission of the virus.

This event also brought to the campus educational workshops on "Homophobia," by Jerry Cheney, AIDS Health Educator for Health Awareness Services in Worcester and "HIV in the Family" by Lilia Chavez from the Pediatric Immunology

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## Pentium Processors installed in Hammond

by Karen Letendre  
Contributing writer

Twenty-five new computers with Pentium Processors are available for FSC students, faculty, and staff in the Hammond Lab.

The Pentium Processors cost approximately \$2,000 each. They arrived at the end of August and were installed in the Hammond Lab for this semester.

According to Gerald Sawyer,

a computer science professor here at FSC, the Pentium Processor is the latest hardware technology in computers. The processor is a 586 IBM compatible chip which utilizes 32 Bit Architecture.

In other words, the Pentium Processor functions as the "brains" of the computer. It carries out and controls all of the operations that take place within the computer.

The computers with Pentium Processors are built on newer

technology, and run faster than those without Pentium Processors. In addition to operating under Windows software, the processor supports a wider range of software. This is useful for anyone using the new computers because they can now operate a wider range of activities and still have the advantage of easily understanding how to run the programs through the use of Windows icons.



Hammond lab is home of some new computer hardware.

photo by Heather Workman

## Crime rates continue to change

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stand to prove that there is always a potential for crime.

In October of 1992, a fight broke out at a campus fraternity gathering held in the FSC pub. One student was stabbed and four others were injured by beer bottles and glass mugs. This incident spread to G-Lobby and over to Russell Towers. Weapons may have been involved.

Another incident occurred in 1993 prior to the beginning of the school year. A bomb was found in the Hammond Building and safely detonated by the

local Fort Devens Bomb Squad.

FSC is taking action and preventive measures. There are substance free residence halls, drug and alcohol treatment programs, a Fitchburg Police patrol car that does rounds of the campus on a regular basis, and at least two or three officers on campus at all times.

A student escort service is also available seven days a week from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Two trained students provide a safe walk, up to ten minutes, across campus for any student who re-

quests it.

"It is the students' responsibility on their own to know and realize they are no longer living at home with their parents," said Cunningham. "They need to think about their own property. I'd like to say that everyone's good and nothing bad will happen, but I can't. Take care of your property and lock the doors to your room when it's unattended. Don't be the nice guy and don't sign people into the residence hall that you don't know."

## SGA appoints new members

by Anna Allen  
News Editor

At a meeting on October 24, 1995, SGA appointed two students to the council.

Melissa Lickey was appointed as the Treasurer for the class of '97, and Richard Bastien filled the final position for the class of 1999 as a representative. Both were approved by general council acceptance.

The Townhouses currently have no board of governors. With all applications in, elections will be held sometime this week.

## AIDS Awareness focuses on you

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Clinic at UMass Medical Center. Each workshop offered insight to the social impact of the AIDS epidemic.

The final workshop, "HIV in the Workplace," consisted of a panel of educators. Penny Murray, the school nurse at McKay Campus School, touched upon the school's policies on HIV and AIDS. Penny stressed that anyone with the disease has the same rights as other students and can participate in any activity that the school offers. She also noted that the student's parents are the "gatekeepers," meaning they are not obligated to disclose any information regarding the virus. Her speech was highlighted with points such as the importance of staff education, consistency in procedures, and how to educate people lacking knowledge about the AIDS virus. She offered universal precautions and plans for

the future, most importantly the belief that "we can't educate enough," and "the more one knows about the disease the more comfortable we will be."

Dr. Rick Williams, coordinator of the AIDS Awareness Program at Polaroid Corp., spoke next. He stressed the need for corporate support systems and the impact of having such a "counseling department" in which people interact with individuals infected by the AIDS virus. Dr. Williams emphasized a "proactive position" and the demand for programs to meet the needs of all groups of people, be it cancer, heart disease, HIV, or AIDS.

The final speaker of the day was James Voltz, executive director of AIDS project, Worcester. Voltz focused upon the legalities of this disease and the ramifications that go with it. Voltz noted the "insistence" of education at an early age.

**News story idea?  
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## ...next week in *The Strobe*

**Meet FSC's Assistant Coaches.**

*Norman Miller profiles some unrecognized heroes.*

**Read about yesterday's Financial Aid rally at the Statehouse in Boston.**

*The Strobe's Anna Allen and Sonja Randall take a trip to the Hub for the scoop.*

## Marionette Theater performs "Aladdin"

FSC Press Release

The National Marionette Theater will present a production of "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" at Fitchburg State College on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 8p.m. in Weston Auditorium.

Tickets are \$2 for senior citizens, students, and children under 12, and \$4 for the general public.

The Theater, under the artistic direction of David Syrotiak, has won a number of international awards for design and for manipulation technique over the course of 35 years. Past productions have included "Sleeping Beauty" and "Rip Van Winkle."

Sets include the evil magician's remote mountain aerie, an enchanted treasure cavern, the backstreets of Baghdad, and the Sultan's glittering palace. The musical score is by Rimsky-Korsakov and Borodin.

"Puppetry is a synthesis of the arts: sculpture, design, music, mime, dance, and theater," said Syrotiak. "And the puppet itself is an everyman with no limitations. It is the crystallization of the imagination and magic of the puppeteer."

Syrotiak also writes the scripts for each show. "Doing a script for a marionette production is very specialized. You have to know the medium you're writing for, and it must be tailored to each marionette company's needs and capabilities. In addition to manipulating marionettes, the puppeteers are also responsible for activating numerous lighting cues and special effects, as well as doing scene changes. I have to be aware at all times where each puppeteer is at any given moment. Thank goodness for our computerized lighting system." There are two performances that take place at each show - one that the audience sees from the front, and the one that exists behind the scenes.

"The script for Aladdin is quickly paced with a lot of surprises. Each of the characters has tremendous dimension - you get to know and care about them. Adults love the show as much as the children do. It really is a production that the entire family can appreciate and enjoy together, each on their own level."

For more information contact the campus center office at (508) 665-3164.

## Wanted!!!

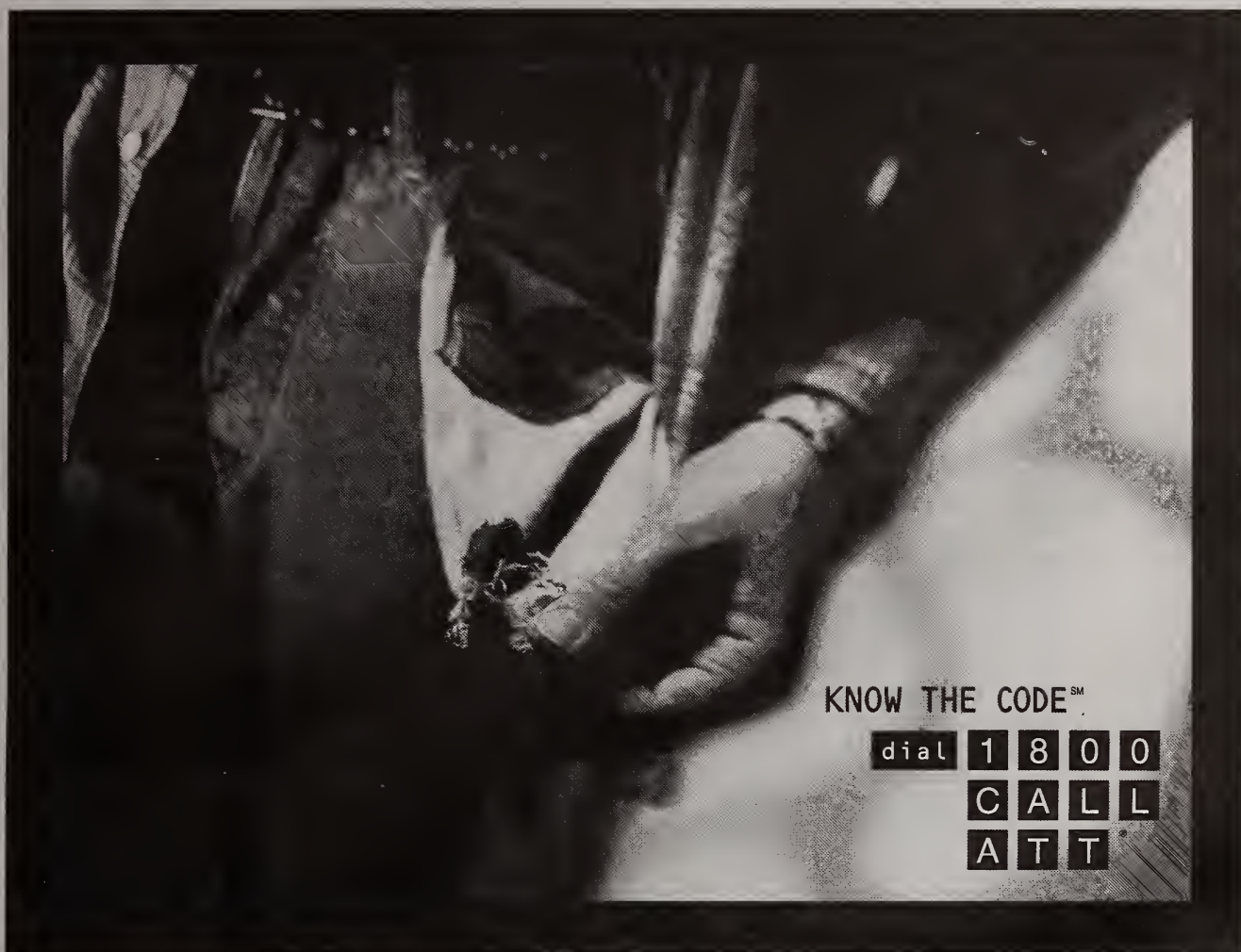
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## Project Enable More than just a headache

by Jennifer Welch  
Contributing writer

Remember when you were a little kid, and saw your first apple tree? Remember how much you wanted one of those ripe red apples? You stood on your tiptoes, stretched your arms out, but it was no use. The apples were just out of reach.

A chuckle comes to mind when people think of this scenario. Most people remember it fondly as an echo of the past. However, there are others for whom it is a way of life, with many of life's simplest things being an inch from their grasp. These are people limited in some way by a disability.

Project Enable is a three-year U.S. Department of Education grant designed to support students with disabilities. If we followed our apple analogy to the end, the program could be called a footstool. It helps disabled students become more ac-

tive through leadership roles, advocacy work, and internships. In the social realm it provides peer groups, clubs, alliances, and events.

It lets them reach the apples. Those in the program can also get a jump start in career planning. They are assisted in building a career portfolio. This is a collection of personal experiences such as resumes, transcripts, and past work. Project Enable director, Willa Peterson, describes it as a "scrapbook,"—the kind an artist uses. Project Enable's career policy is similar to that of Career Services for the non-disabled.

The program includes not only people who are physically disabled, or have specific learning disabilities, but also those with a chronic illness like AIDS or cancer. That revelation may surprise some people, but that is the purpose, to help ALL those who need it.

## Fraternity addresses student issues

by Kristen Kinville  
Staff writer

The brothers and sisters of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., sponsored a discussion group called "Get Real" on October 3, which focused on issues such as grades, stereotypes, and the incidents of discrimination and racism on campus. Also discussed were ways to get involved on campus to make a positive impact.

Marc Vital, President of Iota Phi Theta said, "The purpose of the meetings was to provide an icebreaker." Vital elaborated to say that many students have a hard time talking to other people about the problems, and these meetings provide an outlet to gain others' advice about solving those problems.

One of the major outcomes of this first meeting was the commitment to schedule regular

meetings. "I look forward to (the meetings)," said Vital. "People come to give what they have according to what they know, and can take from what others have to offer."

Victor Bishop, Vice-President of Iota Phi Theta, said that this was a chance for not only the students, but also the faculty to see that there is unity on campus. "It's time people become one (on this campus), it's been too long!" said Bishop. "It's our chance to show other students and faculty that we can get together to achieve one common goal."

"The outcome was very positive, but I would have liked to see more of an ethnic mix present, more diversity," said Sonya Owens, an IOTA Sweetheart. "I believe people could have gotten more out of it if there was more of a mix. It was a good start, though."

Press Release

You've just made it through another week filled with all-nighters, caffeine fixes, junk food, mid-terms, and loud music. The weekend is finally here, and you're ready to kick back and relax. Suddenly, your head seems to explode with throbbing, pounding pain, so intense that all you want to do is crawl in bed and not deal with anything or anybody. This isn't fair—free time is not time for a headache.

Chances are, what you've got may be much more than "just" a headache. It may be migraine, a disease that can cause pain so intense that many sufferers have wished they were dead during an attack. Unfortunately, the symptoms of migraine are often discounted as not serious, especially in this age group. Though migraine typically strikes more often after the college years, it can occur earlier in life. A study of headaches among adolescents and young adults indicates an average of 77.8 percent of women and 57.9 percent of men between the ages of 18 and 29 reported that their most recent headache occurred within four weeks of participating in the study.

What's worse, however, is the number of people with migraine who don't seek a treatment plan. Of those who participated in the same study, an average of 85 percent of men and 68 percent of women who reported having one or more headache in the prior year had never consulted a physician about their headaches. These facts are consistent with the results of a recent national survey of physicians that showed that the typical migraine sufferer waits an average of 3.5 years before consulting a doctor for treatment for their headache. That's years off needless suffering!

Migraine is characterized by multiple symptoms including severe, recurrent, pain, usually on one side of the head and often accompanied by one or more of the following associated symptoms: nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound. Migraine attacks can last from four to 72 hours.

"The pain is often aggravated by routine movements or physical exertion," said Dr. Glen Solomon, head, Section of Headache at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. "Frequently, the sufferer has to lie in a dark, quiet room until the attack passes—a coping mechanism that is not often a practical alternative in a busy lifestyle," he said.

"Unfortunately, many young adults suffer needlessly from migraine because they do not understand the disease and the options for relief from pain it causes," Solomon said. "One of the first steps in understanding the disease is knowing some of the basic symptoms, which are different in each sufferer."

Until very recently, the cause of a migraine attack was largely a mystery. Many scientists now believe that migraine is caused



by a sequence of events that cause blood vessels in the brain to tighten, then relax, resulting in the throbbing pain of a migraine. Although there is no cure for migraine, much has been learned to manage the disease, including effective treatment programs.

"The first step is to see a physician for a proper diagnosis and treatment program," Solomon said, noting that diagnosis should include a thorough evaluation of the headache to ensure it is not a "marker" or indication of any number of serious problems. He also emphasized a review of a family medical history, particularly because there is about a 75% chance of having migraine if both parents are migraine sufferers, and about a 50% chance if only one parent has migraine.

"One of the things we often notice in young patients is that

when they shut off the stereo, they have a terrible headache," he said. "They become extremely sensitive to sound, which can trigger a migraine attack." The patient plays an important role in treatment, Dr. Solomon said, adding that learning to recognize and control the signs and "trigger" factors common in the lifestyles of young people is essential. Examples of different triggers include:

- Irregular sleep or insufficient sleep.
- Dietary factors, such as skipping meals, dieting and consuming foods and beverages with caffeine, alcohol, MSG or nitrates.
- Environmental changes including changes in atmospheric pressure or temperature as well as cigarette smoke, bright lights, and loud noises—even music.
- Certain medications, including over-the-counter pain relievers and analgesics, such as aspirin. (Many of these medications also contain caffeine, a known migraine trigger.)
- Hormonal changes, associated with birth-control pills or menstrual cycles.
- Motion from riding bikes or cars, eyestrain, irregular workouts or even a lack of exercise.
- Emotional changes, including fatigue, depression, anxiety, anticipation, or stress.

"Because migraines commonly occur when there is a let-down after stress, weekends, vacations, and holidays are common times to get migraine headaches," said Solomon. He also adds that, just as migraines can be triggered by stress, they also add stress to a person's life, thereby creating a vicious cycle of pain for migraine sufferers.

"When you add several days each month of being bed-ridden or not being able to function at a high level, stress increases dramatically," said Solomon.

Migraine is a difficult disease to diagnose, treat, and live with because it affects people differently, with symptoms and triggers varying by individual. However, relief from migraine pain is possible, and early diagnosis and treatment will help lessen the impact it will have on sufferers' lives now and in the future.

Ever thought of studying in another country for a semester or even a year? On Tuesday, November 14th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the G-Lobby, stop by and meet with Cristina Sosa and find out what Study-abroad programs FSC has to offer or stop by the International Education office located in the Sanders Building, or call (508) 665-3599.

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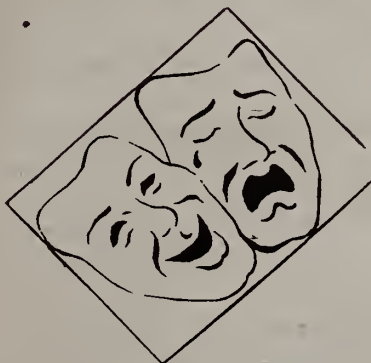
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Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

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## Pull the plug on suffering



Ron Taupier is a Senior, business management major.

by Ron Taupier  
Opinion Editor

There are some things that you just cannot change. You cannot change the grade you received on your last test, you cannot change the weather, and you certainly cannot change the course of fate. But there are actions you can take to improve a given situation. You could study harder for the next exam, you could do something productive on a rainy day or... you could kill somebody.

You must be thinking how killing somebody could make things better. How about someone that is suffering from a terminal illness and strapped to life-support systems? Is this any

way to live? If a person cannot eat, sleep, breathe and speak on their own then what is the purpose of existing? I wouldn't necessarily call that murder. Rather, I call it terminating the suffering of a person who is fatally ill.

The latter describes the medical action of killing an individual for reasons considered to be merciful. I look at it as the release of an individual from an incurable disease or intolerable suffering. I don't know about you, but if I have to be hooked up to a machine to breathe oxygen or helped to use the bathroom, I would much rather be dead. I give Dr. Jack Kevorkian, an advocate of the "right to die", my respect for assisting those who are suffering from terminal illness.

Why is Dr. Kevorkian receiving so much resistance from the medical profession and government? In my opinion he is doing more for the terminally ill than all the medicine in the world.

The controversy surrounding Dr. Kevorkian's participation in assisted suicides stems from religious beliefs that euthanasia is sacrilegious. Many religious

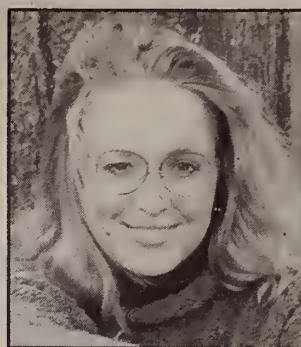
groups believe that only God should decide when the time has come for a person to die. My question is: Who should have the authority to decide whether a person should be taken off life-support?

Active euthanasia means deliberate action to relieve suffering that medical professionals may avoid measures that prevent death.

Euthanasia has been accepted both legally and morally in many forms in different societies. Let the decision "rest" with the patient if he or she is capable of making that decision.

I believe people should be allowed to determine their own destiny. In all honesty, I feel that if extraordinary means are required to prolong someone's life, we are not only extending the suffering of the individual, we are increasing the pain of other family members. Let's pull the plug on life-support systems. Perhaps the term "right to die" should be reworded. Support the rights of the individual to choose his fate and end the suffering, support Dr. Jack Kevorkian's work, and support a patients "right to die respectfully."

## The right to choose



Anna Allen is a Junior, Technical writing major

by Anna Allen  
News Editor

The word abortion brings a variety of strong opinions to the surface. No matter how much you discuss this controversial issue there seems to be no common ground. Perhaps this is because with each situation comes a new point of view.

I am pro-choice. However, like many other people, I find myself pulling out exceptions when I explain my reasons. In

my opinion, if "adults" partaking in sexual activities do so in a responsible manner they should have the freedom to decide whether or not to have the baby. If, however, a couple engages in sex without protection they should deal with the consequences of their action. Abortion should not be a choice for them. After all, they knew what they were doing when the clothes hit the floor, didn't they?

I also believe that the decision of whether or not to have an abortion is a joint decision between the man and the woman. If it takes two to tango, then it should take two people to make a life or death decision.

Having an abortion is a tough decision to make, and those who do choose to take this path must live with the decision for the rest of their lives. With the problems of today's society; rape, AIDS, abuse, etc... wouldn't it be better to know that as members of American society we have the freedom to choose whether or not to have an abortion?

## The college top 15

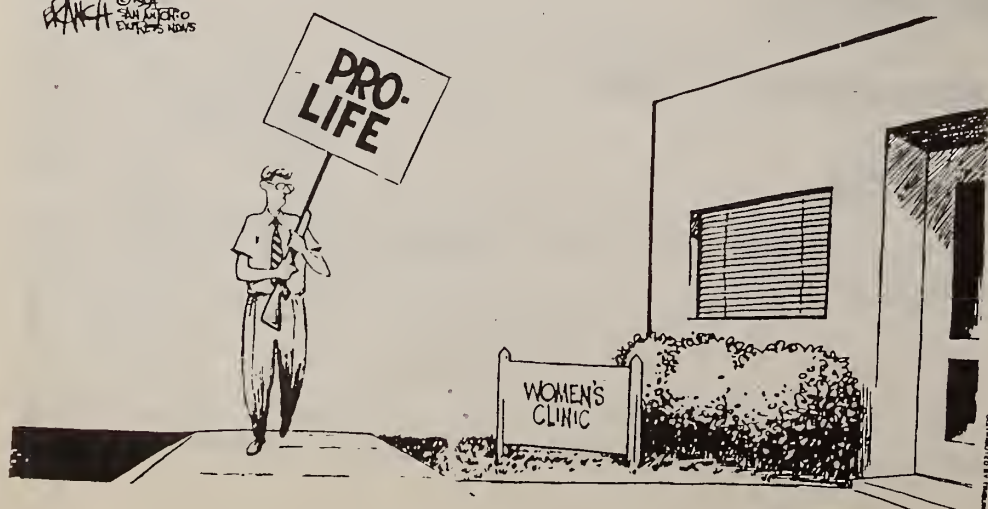
Mark Witkowski  
Contributing writer

Regardless of where you went to high school there were certain "codes of conduct" that everyone followed. In college these codes still exist, but the rules have changed. Here's a list that I came across while browsing the Internet:

15. In high school, you do homework. In college, you study.
14. In high school, you wear your backpack on one shoulder. In college, on both.
13. In college, the professors can tell you the answer without looking at the teachers guide.
12. In high school, you have to live with your parents. In college, you get to live with your friends.
11. Only nerds e-mailed in high school. (Cool kids hadn't heard of it yet.)
10. In high school, if you screw up you can usually sweet-talk your way out of it. In college, your lucky to ever even talk to the professor.
9. In high school, the fire drills are planned by the administration; in college, by drunk people returning home from a party.
8. In high school, when the teacher said "good morning," you mumbled back. In college, you write it down.
7. In college, any test consists of a larger percentage of your grade than your high school final exams ever did.
6. In college, weekends start on Wednesday.
5. In college, there's no one to tell you not to eat pizza three meals a day.
4. In high school, it never took 3 or 4 weeks to get money from Mom and Dad.
3. In college, when you miss a class (or two or three), you don't need a note from your parents saying you were skip....uh, sick that day.
2. In high school, you can't go out to lunch because it's not allowed. In college, you can't go out to lunch because you can't afford it.
1. College women are legal.

Mark Witkowski is a senior Industrial Technology/ Graphic Arts major

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STUDENT NEWS





# Changing minds on abortion

by Kristen Knight  
Contributing writer

The mere mention of the word "abortion" causes different emotions in different people. I have always thought of myself as taking the position of Pro-choice. During the summer, however, I viewed a program that changed my mind.

A segment of a particular news program reported on a woman who had given birth eight years ago. To what she had given birth to is a matter of opinion. The "child" was born with only a brain stem. The child could do nothing. It couldn't move, couldn't eat, and doctors more than suspected that this child wasn't even aware of its own existence.

By use of ultrasound, the mother was aware that the child would not be functional before it was ever born. I questioned why this woman never had an abortion. Why go through the entire ordeal if there was no possibility of having a normal child?

The woman's answer to this question was quite simple. She said she realized that not every child is perfect and that God had willed her baby to be the way that it was. Now I'm not going to get into a religious spiel, but I thought that this made a lot of sense. It is unnatural to have such control over human life.

Today with the help of modern science we can start human life in petrie dishes and experi-

ments of genetically altering humans is currently a capability. We can only imagine what we will be capable of doing tomorrow. Wouldn't a genetically altered society result in an imbalance in human culture?

I believe that it is unnatural to interfere with something as serious as child birth and the make-up of human beings. Abortion interferes with "the powers that be." Who has the right to play God and say who will live and who will not? Personally, I am afraid of giving anyone that much power.

Some people will argue that there are too many unwanted children. I find this hard to believe when you consider the amount of couples who are eagerly awaiting to adopt babies.

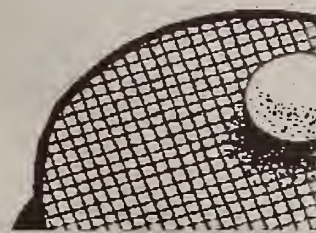
Another argument is that teenage pregnancy, which is a horrendous problem in the 1990's, can be controlled by use of abortions. Although true, I find this terribly disturbing. The problem with our society is that it just doesn't realize that education is the best way in which to fight this problem. We should get to the issue before it becomes a problem.

The woman with the undeveloped baby truly believes that she did the right thing by not terminating her pregnancy. I am glad to know that there are still individuals on this planet who can love unconditionally and can see beyond perfection.

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## Registration

Registration for the spring classes will be as follows

**Seniors**

**November 6**

**Juniors**

**November 8**

**Sophomores**

**November 13**

**Freshman**

**November 15**

See your advisor for your designatted registration times.

Failure to complete registration by November 28, 1995 will resultt in being  
dropped from the FSC roster.



# WXPL reformats to save audience

by Jayna McGuirk  
Staff writer

Due to an executive decision that concerns the capability of holding a regular audience, Fitchburg State's "X-plosive radio" station, WXPL, has changed the setup of it schedule.

They felt that if they play a show from a particular genre of music every night at the same time, they would be able to catch a listener's ear more consistently than if they had a varying schedule.

The station is chancing that if a listener likes an urban music show they heard on a certain

time on a Monday, most likely that listener would turn the station on again at the same general time on Tuesday.

People are more likely to keep tuning in when they don't have to remember exactly what night and what time a show they like is on. A college student already has enough things to keep track of, so finding a favorite radio show on the station would not rank high on their list of priorities.

Station Manager Lisa Tarulli said another reason for the change is that if the station carried a confusing schedule of different types of music it could lose part of its regular audience. If the program is different every day, listeners won't consistently tune into the small station's 91.3 frequency.

The new schedule is set up so that people who like alternative music can turn the radio on at the same time Monday though Friday to find an alternative show.

The station has made this schedule to capture a larger student and public audience. The new schedule will make it easy for people to tune into their favorite show.



Station Manager Lisa Tarulli photo by Heather Workman

## Ringling Brothers visit Boston



Delilah Larimore  
Associate editor

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Acrobats and high wires and clowns, oh my! For the past two weeks, the Ringling Brothers and their cast have entertained many with their grace and talent.

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus was

one of the first events to christen the new Fleet Center in Boston.

Opening the show were the clown troops. There for the sole purpose of making us laugh, this hilarious group of people definitely did their job. The evenings entertainment continued with breath taking, high flying, daredevil stunts.

The floor was set up so that there were three rings, with three with plenty of things to look at.

Paying a special visit were the Brothers' own Romeo and Juliette, two baby elephants. They were accompanied by their mom and dad and plenty of close friends.

Next came more clowns and fun followed by three rings of dogs doing tricks.

The entertainment continued with horses and the arrival of the Lion King and his group of lionesses. This group of animals were in a cage and presented by a trainer who was brave enough to take them on, armed only with a whip.

High flying trapeze artists continued the show with their bravery and poise. The audience held their breath as they swung from the rafters doing mid-air stunts, catching one another with only a safety net beneath them.

This exciting, spectacular show was shot the entire length of the arena, surrounded by a cast of dancers watching from below.

Boston's new Fleet Center was fully equipped with great seating and all types of food, enough to satisfy the hungriest of people.

Given the opportunity, this show is not to be missed. The Ringling Brothers have definitely earned their title as the Greatest Show on Earth.

## "Jade" fails to entertain

by Rick Rodricks  
Staff writer

Jade  
\*  
Still in theaters

Since the death of film director Alfred Hitchcock, there have been few decent attempts at making a great suspense film. "Jade" fails.

Although the movie begins as a Hitchcock-style suspense thriller, it quickly abandons all attempts at a well-timed execution for the visually inferior, decadent Hollywood style.

A good suspense film takes the strings of mystery, expectation, and tension, and ties them together around a visually stimulating package. "Jade," however, just yanks us with a coarse rope.

The biggest problem with this movie is that it does not flow logically. There are many times when we are left wondering "how did the characters get there?" or worse "why are they doing that?"

Take for example the unnecessary car chase scene through the streets of San Francisco (has this been done before?). The assistant D.A. pursues an unmarked, black Ford Thunderbird over the hills and through the busy intersections of the Bay Area, cresting every hill with a leap, and just barely squeezing through the cross-traffic at red lights.

The big "huh?" comes when the Thunderbird wheels down an alley in Chinatown. Of course, there just happens to be a gala Chinese parade filling the entire area. We watch as the two cars are slowed to a crawl by the presence of too many pedestrians, parade floats, and trains of people in dragon costumes.

When the first car begins running over people, a gang of kung fu fighters attack the D.A.'s car. This scene continues for a boring ten minutes, then the two cars manage to bust out on the other side of the alley, only to continue the chase. Zzz.

Another place where the movie fails is in its attempt to be sexy. It never approaches the level of eroticism that necessitates an abundance of gratuitous sex scenes. As a matter of fact, it's not even good enough to be horny.

"Jade" not only lacks excitement and fails to be sexy, but it is even insulting. It degrades women, men, cops, Italian-Americans, and even hookers. The leading men are piss-ons with outdated attitudes, fast cars, and no respect for their ladies. The women are all nymphomaniacs who like rough sex and the protection of their forceful men.

Like so many of today's movies, "Jade" attempts to give the target audience (the teenage dating crowd) too much of what they think it wants. If you want action, rent "Rambo," if you want suspense, get "Psycho" or "Rear Window," but if you want to waste your money, go and see "Jade."

Rick Rodricks is a Senior Media Communications major.

## Speak out

Here's your chance. President Riccards has appointed a major task force to put together a plan for the college as it looks to the future. The group is very interested in hearing how students feel about such things as financial aid, admissions, registration, safety, athletics, advising, academic departments and majors, student activities, publications -pretty much anything and everything related to the college. What do we do well? What doesn't work? What drives you crazy? If you could wave a magic wand, how would you change things? You don't have to sign your name and neatness doesn't count. What matters are your ideas. You can send this sheet to Prof. Cosgrove, Mathematics Department, or just drop it in the campus mail slot. Thanks for being part of this important project.



# Iron Maiden goes back to its roots with "X Factor"

By Todd Olson  
Contributing writer

When Iron Maiden's lead singer, Bruce Dickinson, quit in September of 1993 to start a solo career many fans were left speculating Maiden's future. The general feeling was that the loss of his powerful vocals would seriously hurt the band.

But what they forgot was that he wasn't the original singer. In fact, the only original members are bassist Steve Harris and guitarist Dave Murray. Many also forget that if it wasn't for Harris' bass guitar and deep lyrics, the band wouldn't even exist.

Now, two years after Dickinson's departure and a year after the release of his second solo album, Iron Maiden is back with "The X Factor", the fourteenth album in their fifteen year career.

Musically, the album is everything a true fan should expect and hope for. Harris' bass lines are hauntingly melodic, driving and furiously executed holding to the band's "in your face" style. Perhaps the best example of this

is a brilliant bass solo intro to the song "Blood On The World's Hands".

Dave Murray and Janick Geers continue to swap lead and rhythm parts with one another while blending their melodies and rhythms into a perfect unison of complementary parts. While doing this they still manage to leave one another the creative freedom to explode into individual rifts.

As for drummer Nicko McBrain, his rhythms continue to be a solid rush of heart pounding adrenalin.

The lyrics are in the old Maiden tradition as Steve Harris composes the majority of the writing. In some respects "The X Factor" is reminiscent of the Iron Maiden of the early 80's.

Back then Harris found inspiration in literature, historical events and movies. Songs such as, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," based on the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge; "The Trooper," about a battle during the Crimean War; and "Where Eagles Dare," the title off a Clint Eastwood movie, provided the

inspiration for hit songs.

The new album features songs including "Lord of the Flies," based on Golding's novel; "Fortunes of War," about a Vietnam vet haunted by the war; and "Edge of Darkness," derived from the movie "Apocalypse Now." Reminiscent of the old days, we see Maiden drawing heavily from the world around them.

The problem with the album is that new singer Blaze Bayley, formerly of Wolfsbane, needs to work on his vocals. Although his voice is easy to listen to, it lacks the power to carry a heavy metal rock and roll band.

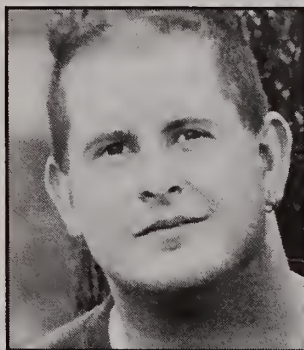
On several tracks, his voice is drowned out by the band because it lacks the vocal power to rise above the rest of the band.

Iron Maiden's philosophy has always been about making great music. "The X Factor" is a continuation of a tradition fans have come to expect from Britain's number one heavy metal band.

Todd Olson is a Senior, Professional Writing major.

## Comic Forum

by Kevin Robertson  
A&E Editor



Kevin Robertson is a Senior, English professional writing major.

In the wake of the demise of Marvel and DC's superhero characters, a new world of independent comic books has risen to replace them. Dark Horse, Vertigo, and Image Comics have been publishing the books of our decade.

Frank Miller spent much of the eighties reinventing comic books into a darker, more serious representation of real life. Critics have hailed him as the finest

storyteller in comics today.

"The Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot," (Dark Horse Publishing) is quite a departure for him, imitating more cheesy, 1960's Japanese monster movies rather than his magnum opus, "The Dark Knight Returns."

Geof Darrow, who did the art for the acclaimed "Hard Boiled" series written by Miller, has outdone himself by combining absolute fantasy with brutal realism. \*\*\*\*

"Madman," another Dark Horse production, gives creator Mike Allred the opportunity to pay homage to his influences, 50's and 60's pop art comic books. "Madman" follows the story of a disgraced superhero though some warped and wacky adventures.

Funny and heartwarming, "Madman" doesn't try to preach, but has fun telling a story of how this unintentional superhero can find happiness in his almost Ed Wood like world. \*\*\*\*1/2

So much is said about their Vertigo counterpart, Neil Gaiman's "Sandman," that many people ignore two other fantastic Vertigo books, "Hellblazer" and "Preacher" which deals with even darker topics than Neil Gaiman's masterpiece.

"Hellblazer" is the story of John Constantine, a fly-by-the-seat-of-his-pants occult magician, and the problems he confronts. His enemies are no different than other Vertigo images, but he uses cunning rather than mystical power to fight demons.

The recent story line "Critical Mass" features his battle with the recently deposed Lucifer Morningstar (Satan) who wants to watch him suffer. Highly recommended. \*\*\*\*

"Preacher" is almost a coming of age story about a priest who has just received mystical powers that may have come from the recently resigned God of the Bible. This is a dark violent story with fantastic twists and turns. \*\*\*\*1/2

Jeff Smith has recently moved his critically acclaimed comic "Bone" to Image Comics, a publishing line that could use a well versed writer such as Smith.

"Bone" is the story of three odd little creatures and their adventures through their mystical world. It is a funny and well crafted comic book that deserves all of its praise. \*\*\*\*

A top selling comic book doesn't necessarily place it in the "good" or even "great" category, but keep an eye out for these fantastic underrated comic books. As the century comes to a close, the great heroes may not be Batman or Spiderman anymore, but John Constantine and Madman.

## Nothing "To Die For"

by Gina Procopio  
Staff writer

She uses their vulnerability against them by pretending to befriend them.

As she gets the three youths wrapped around her little finger she begins to seduce one of them who can't be more than fifteen. Together the students and Kidman plan her husband's murder.

Does she do this because he is abusive? Oh no. She wants to have the lead edge on a cutting story, besides he wants her to have children. Kids just don't compliment the working reporter.

This was a bad take off of the Smart story. I will say that it was humorous and entertaining. Rather predictable though, considering the Smart story was plastered everywhere. This would be an entertaining rental, but save your money. It wasn't a blockbuster.

"To Die For"  
\*\* 1/2

"To Die For" was not the thriller I thought it would be. The dark and satirical comedy, starring Matt Dillon and Nicole Kidman, used murder as the focal point for laughs. The storyline seemed to be based on the Pamela Smart story.

Kidman plays Suzanne Stone, a newlywed girl on the way to fame by working at the local TV station as a "girl Friday." As her career progresses, she decides she needs a big break and begins to make her move.

She begins her friendship with three underprivileged students, the grungy rocker type kids who live in trailer parks.

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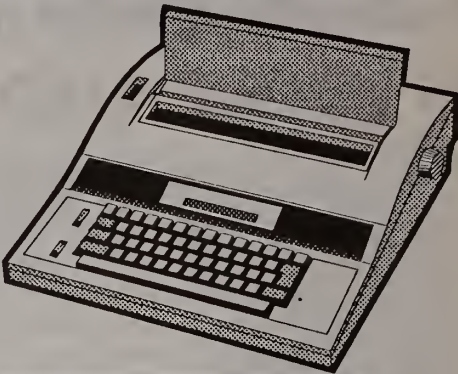
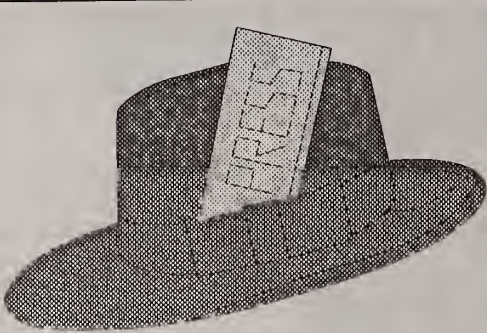
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# NEWS

The Strobe is looking to fill the following positions for this semester:

- Sports writers
- News writers
- Features writers
- Copy editors

Anyone interested can contact Derek Valcourt at The Strobe - 665-3647

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### Cross-country results

Women:

Kim Walsh	21:02	1
Judy Kitler	22:54	7
Sue Whitnell	22:55	8
Katie Brace	23:00	9
Lori Poulot	24:05	17
Melissa Langfield	24:07	18
Amy Paquette	26:46	35
Annmarie Campo	27:49	37
Beverly Horsch	29:35	41

Men:

Brian Beenders	32:30	43
Kevin Carr	33:49	50
Pete Demnai	34:47	52
Jason Brambel	36:49	54
Lamar Graham	39:00	55
Mark Donelly	40:03	56



# Lady Falcons lose to Salem State 5-0

by Brian Lamy and Norman Miller  
Production Assistant and Sports Editor

Last Tuesday night, the women's soccer team squared off against Salem State on a muddy Elliot Field. The mud proved to be a factor, causing the game to be called short just after the 70:00 mark, with the Falcons losing 5-0.

"The referee just decided that it was 5-0, and that the field was muddy, and before someone would get hurt, he decided to call the game," said FSC coach Ed Dupuis. "Which I think is totally wrong. My girls deserved the chance to play this game, and finish it."

The Falcons had control of the game at the beginning. Julie Robinson had a few good breaks, but luck was not on Fitchburg State's side.

"We just couldn't put the ball into the net today," said Dupuis.

Salem State scored their first goal off of a fast break, which set the ball in motion for the visiting team. Cheryl Farley set her teammate, Amy Bergeron, up on the break, putting Salem up 1-0 at the 17:26 mark.

The Vikings scored their second goal 22:06 into the game when Captain Stephanie Miano scored off a direct kick just outside of the 18-yard line. This goal made it 2-0, and let some steam out of the Falcons.

Salem State scored goal number three when Amy Howard, assisted by Amanda Potvin, kicked one past Karen Irving, making the score 3-0 with 1:10 left in the half.

Fitchburg picked up their play in the second half, but the Vikings ball continued to pick up speed. They scored two more goals in the second half to make the score 5-0 before the refs cut the game short because of poor field conditions.

The first goal was

scored when Potvin collected a deflection and placed it in the back of the net. The last goal was scored when Jennifer Mullen tapped the slow rolling pass from Farley into the net.

The Falcons did suffer the loss of tri-captain Melissa Bourie when she went down with a pulled hamstring in the second half.

On Thursday afternoon, FSC hosted powerhouse Bridgewater State College, and fell in defeat in overtime 3-1.

"It was a great game, this team won the MASCAC championship, and we took it to them," said Dupuis.

With the Bears already leading 1-0, sophomore Maryann Barrett tied the game 1-0, with her eleventh goal of the season, breaking teammate Ginger Boormeester's team record of ten.

But that was all for the Falcons, and Bridgewater slipped two goals by Irving in the overtime period to win the



Julie Robinson in action against Salem State. Photo by Norman Miller

game 3-1.

The game was the last for the women's soccer team for this season. Seniors Boormeester, Robinson, and Kelly Koscielecki all played in their last game at FSC, barring post season play.

"They're going to be very hard to replace," said

Dupuis. "They're excellent players, talented players."

"I think we had a fantastic season. Hey, if you go 10-4-1, you had a pretty good season."

Brian Lamy is a Junior Communications Major

## Field Hockey Ends Great Season

by Norman Miller  
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State field hockey ended their season last Tuesday, when they traveled to Framingham State, losing 1-0 on the Rams' only shot on goal.

The loss knocked the Falcons out of first place in the MASCAC, and they had to settle for second place.

Overall, FSC enjoyed a fantastic season, finishing with a

12-3-2 record. Senior Wendy Gagliani had a MASCAC Player of the Year season, scoring twelve goals. Other seniors, Meredith Hortal and Tina Leger also had solid seasons as they finished off their Fitchburg State careers.

The season all saw the development of some sophomores as team leaders next season. Goalie Dianne Marshall was one of the leading goalies in the

league. Ashley Aube and Kristen Hogan showed that they both can be solid scorers, Aube had four game winning goals this season, and Hogan had five goals before he season ended due to an injury. Sweeper Mary Bake also had a solid season on defense, helping Marshall avoid having to many shots on net.

The Falcons' last game on Saturday at Elms College was canceled due to rain.

## One more chance for the Falcons

*Football hopes to avoid winless season*

by Norman Miller  
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State football team allowed seven rushing touchdowns as they lost their eighth game of the season last Saturday, 51-6 to Maine Maritime.

The Falcon defense held Maine Maritime to only one score in the first quarter, a four-yard run by Rob Marchitello, (37 carries for 229 yards, five touchdowns), making it 7-0 heading into the second quarter.

That's when Marchitello heated up. A little over three minutes into the quarter, Marchitello ran through the FSC defense for 44-yards and the touchdown, making it 14-0 after the extra point.

Three minutes later, Mass.

Maritime went on a six-play, 24 yard drive, which ended with a five-yard run by Marchitello.

David McQuicken gave MMA a 24-0 half time lead when he connected with a 42-yard field goal with 4:47 remaining in the half.

It took Maine Maritime almost half of the third quarter before they scored their next touchdown. MMA went on a 11 play, 70 yard drive. Marchitello ended the drive with a three yard run, making it 31-0.

Still in the third quarter, Marchitello scored his fifth touchdown of the game with a 2-yard touchdown run.

The Falcons scored their only touchdown of the game when quarterback Jason Dyer connected with Jason Lobik, (seven receptions for 120 yards), for

seven yards. The kick failed, making it 38-6.

Mike Leon scored two more rushing td's for MMA in the fourth quarter, on runs of twelve yards and eleven yards, making it the final, 51-6.

For the game, FSC had 70-yards rushing compared to 314 for MMA. Dyer and Steve Nelson completed a total ten passes out of twenty five passes for a total of 155 yards. The Falcon defense did hold Maine Maritime to 56-yards passing.

Fitchburg State hopes to avoid a winless season this Saturday when they host UMass-Boston at 1:00 pm at Elliot Field.

Norman Miller is a Junior Professional writing major

## Volleyball loses in MASCAC Championships

by Norman Miller  
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State volleyball team ended their long season this Saturday at the MASCAC Championships, losing to Framingham State 3-1, and Salem State 3-0.

This season had been a long, hard season for the Falcons. FSC started the season off with three strait wins, before going on a three game losing streak.

The last time FSC was at .500 was on October 11, when they lost to Emmanuel College, in the middle of a five game losing streak.

Fitchburg did win two out of their last three matches, one against Framingham, and the other against Rivier. The Rivier win came back after losing the first two sets.

Fitchburg State ended their season with a 11-16 record, but with a winning record in the MASCAC, 3-2.

## INTRAMURAL CORNER

by Norman Miller  
Sports Editor

It was a busy week in intramural sports this past week, with both the softball World Series and the street hockey Stanley Cup taking place.

In the World Series it was the Ball Bangers coming out on top. Manager Kristen Iwanski won the Manager of the Year Award for leading the Ball Bangers to victory. Iwanski, Jim Shambarger, Jamie Margoupis, and Joe Vanuni all had good post seasons. Vanuni won the post season MVP award, and Paul Doherty won the regular season MVP.

In the Stanley Cup, the Champs proved that they had the most talent by winning their third Cup in a row. Damon Moore swept the regular season and post season MVP awards.

Intramural basketball begins today, while Flag Football starts Monday.

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**The Strobe is looking for Sports writers. See Norman Miller in The Strobe office for details.**



# Men's soccer slams Mass Maritime 7-2

by Norman Miller and Arnould Bernier  
Sports Editor and Contributing writer

After beating Endicott College 9-2, the Fitchburg State men's soccer team slammed the Mass. Maritime Bucs, 7-2, Wednesday night at Elliot Field.

"Tonight we played well," said Fitchburg State coach Marty Aristegui. "We controlled the game right from the beginning."

The Falcons showed their superiority from the beginning of the game, but they couldn't score until 15:22 into the game, when Erwin Urizandi drew MMA goalie Joe Pearce, and passed to freshman Nathan Arnold for the goal, making it 1-0.

A little over two minutes later Jason Richardson received the pass from Arnold, and kicked the ball out of the goalie's reach, making it 2-0.

Taka Adachi then took over for FSC. At the 30:42 mark of the game Adachi scored his first of three goals from assists by Arnold and Matt Guertin, ex-

tending the Falcons lead to 3-0.

"Taka is an excellent player, but he's been in a slump," said Aristegui. "He can put the ball in the net. He's the kind of guy who will produce no matter where you put him."

Two and a half minutes into the second half, Adachi scored his second goal of the game, after Arnold attempted a cross pass, which was blocked by a MMA defender, making it 4-0.

Adachi got the hat trick "au naturale" at the 60:30 point of the game, from a pass by Leo Paredes. Paredes had the ball right in front of the net, and passed to Adachi on the other side of the net, extending their lead to 5-0.

After the goal, the Falcons cleared their bench, giving their reserves some playing time.

Eric Nolan scored his second goal of the season when Matt Sanfacon set him up for the goal, which went over the goalie's out stretched hand.

Kevin Flynn scored the last goal of the game, when he tapped in Pearce's deflection for his first goal of the season.

The Bucs scored two goals, making it 7-2, to break up freshman Aaron Hohos shut out bid.

Thursday night's brisk weather did little to cool down Fitchburg State, as they breezed their way to a 4-0 victory over Western New England College.

The defense played superb, holding WNEC to a total of nine shots, all turned away by Hohos. Offensively, it was Arnold's show, as the forward poured in all four of the Falcons tallies, bringing his total to twenty two for the year.

By accomplishing the hat-trick plus one, Arnold inked his name into the school history books with 61 points, second on the all-time list.

It looked as if it was going to be an up and down struggle, before Arnold scored on a pass from the right corner from Antero Texera at 21:51 of the first half.

Two minutes later, Arnold struck again, netting a penalty kick into the upper right hand corner past the reach of WNEC goalie Sean Mathews.

The goal margin looked as



Steve Grico kicking the ball.

file photo

if it would be increased minutes into the second half when Falcon Dave Paez caught WNEC's second goalie of the game, Brian Bates, out of position. However, forward Jeff Ormsbee slid across and made a shoe-string save to keep the game within reach for his team.

They could not capitalize on their good fortune, and became victim to Arnold's third goal of the game, making it 3-0.

With 16:04 left to play, Texera put on a solid one man rush though two WNEC defend-

ers, then dished off to his left for his second assist to Arnold, making it the final, 4-0.

On Monday, the Falcons destroyed Endicott College 9-2.

In the game, Urizandi had four goals. Sanfacon, Matt Guertin, Arnold, Nolan, and Seth Lawrence all scored. Hohos made eight saves in net.

FSC ended their season with a 1-0 lead at North Adams on Saturday. Hohos also made eight saves in that game.

*Arnould Bernier is a Freshman Communications Major*

## Lady Falcons run away with MASCAC championship

by Kris Veno  
Copy Editor

FSC's Women's cross-country team took home the 1995 MASCAC Championship after last Saturday's race. With 42 points, the team did well with six girls placing in the top twenty of the forty-four runners. Second place went to Westfield State College with 63 points. Massachusetts Maritime Academy held 68 points for third place, Salem State—87, Worcester State—95, and North Adams—146 finished out the fourth, fifth,

and sixth placings in the tournament.

FSC's Kim Walsh had a well deserved first place, all star position at the end of the rainy Saturday meet. 'All-star' status is given to the top seven runners: FSC, Westfield, Worcester, and Salem all had one member place in all stars. Framingham wasn't placed in the team championship because they did not have a full team.

Other top twenty women were Judy Kitler—8th, Sue Whitnell—9th, Katie Brace—10th, Lori Poulot—17th, and

Melissa Langfield—18th. "The team really stuck together," said Whitnell, "they really worked each other. The team did their usual pack running, which helped them work together on the wet course."

"After two weeks preparation..." Langfield said, "all I have to say is 'we won MASCAC'."

Walsh was sick last week, and the few team members who commented on it expressed relief that she was well enough to run on Saturday. "She ran a re-

ally, really good race," said Whitnell.

Tenth place Katie Brace was on ice after the meet due to her slowly recovering achilles tendonitis. "It was my first race in a while," said Brace who completed with a time of twenty three minutes even on the 3.1 mile course. "We ran well," she adds.

FSC men's cross country ran their 5 mile well, but placed eighth in the MASCAC tournament, only missing the tie for seventh by one point off of North

Adam's 174 points. Framingham State placed sixth with 172 points, fifth was MMA with 145, fourth place Worcester State had 84 points. Third place went to Bridgewater State with 52 points, Salem State took second at 45 points. With 43 points, Westfield State College became the 1995 men's cross country MASCAC champions.

Salem had first place, as well as seventh for two all stars. Bridgewater had three and Westfield and Worcester had the other two.

### FITCHBURG STATE ATHLETIC RECORDS\*

TEAM	OVERALL	MASCAC
Field Hockey	12-3-2	4-1-1
Women's Soccer	10-4-1	2-3-1
Men's Soccer	12-5-0	4-2-0
Volleyball	11-16	3-2
Football**	0-8-0	0-7-0

\*Records don't include post season tournaments, since bids are not known until the day after publication.

\*\*The Football team still has one more game Saturday against UMass-Boston. Also, the team is not in the MASCAC, they are in the NEFC.